



The Weekly Page

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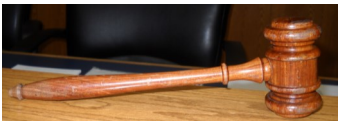
Pages Learn About Legislature



Big ideas in government

Throughout the week pages grappled with understanding the three “big ideas” for a representative government: governing is a complex process, successful democracies rely on responsible citizens, and government affects our life every day. As they participated in daily discussions, listened to guest speakers, and proposed bills in mock committee hearings, their understanding around the concepts deepened. On Friday, they wrote about one of the big ideas to demonstrate the depth of their new knowledge.

Pages write bills, hold mock hearings



During the first three days of their week, pages worked individually or in small groups to write bills designed to address issues which were relevant to them and the state. They discussed the criteria for making a legislative solution work before selecting issues to research and develop. Then they used bill templates on class computers to formulate official-looking documents in preparation for mock committee hearings on Thursday. Topics for policy bills included gun violence, plastic bag pollution, welfare fraud and smoking in cars. Pages read their bills and class “committee members,” governed by the rules of parliamentary procedure, debated the pros and cons of the proposals. A “DO PASS” or “DO NOT PASS” recommendation was then voted upon.

The Huge Plastic Bag Reduction

Olympia – House Bill 2468 was introduced yesterday by Representative Cecilia Lovelady and Representative Mya Davis. “This bill addresses the issue of over usage of plastic bags in grocery and outlet stores which takes a dramatic effect on the State's environment, people, and wildlife and will hopefully shorten the production and need for these very harmful bags,” said Rep. Lovelady. This bill will impose a ten cent tax per plastic bag in hopes of decreasing the waste created by the extensive use in grocery stores across the State of Washington. Store patrons will be given the right to either pay for plastic bags or purchase reusable and/or recyclable bags. They may also buy paper bags, as well as having the option of bringing their own reusable bags from home. “We strive to open the eyes of buyers and draw their attention to the fact that getting rid of plastic bags can and will make the difference to another 100 years of a good, sustainable earth with healthy wildlife, compared to an unclean and smoggy land,” declares Rep. Davis. “Our children will either honor our hard work in our mission to a clean world or despise the land that they live in. It starts here with an action and a movement. Then from there the rest will fall into place.”



The Dead Are Innocent!



Olympia – House Bill 2777 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Kameron Busteter and Daniel Otto. “This bill addresses the issue of innocent death penalty victims and will require D.N.A evidence before the sentence of the penalty,”

said Rep. Bustetter. With 82 executions taking place in just the last two years, there is no sure way to tell how many of those cases were innocent. From here on out using D.N.A evidence will bring the number of executed innocent people down by a significant amount.

Destroying the future

Olympia – Senate Bill 5372 was introduced yesterday by Senator Keith Anderson. “This bill addresses the issue of abortion and will save lives and the future of the human race,” said Sen. Anderson. It will require the State of Washington to put more restrictions. To do this we will have to put a time limit for abortions on the first or 2nd trimester. We will require a licensed physician to perform the operation for the abortion process, due to the fact abortion is selfish, morally wrong, and problematic to the society.



Hungry like the Wolf

Olympia – House Bill 3683 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Sarah Hull and Savannah Phipps. “This bill addresses the issue of wolves killing livestock in Eastern Washington and will require that citizens report any signs of wolf activity to reduce attacks on livestock and determine wolf safety,” said Rep. Hull. In 2012, 40 calves had been killed on Diamond M ranch costing the operation nearly \$100,000. It wouldn't be the only ranch or farm suffering from losses. The bill will require that any sightings, encounters and any signs of wolf activity be reported to a wildlife



department to determine the details of the situation. A barbed wire fence would enclose the livestock of any ranches/farms in the path of a threat from wolves. The only exclusion is any farms/ranches that aren't yet in the path of danger or haven't been attacked. Relocation of any wolves will be a last resort. All of this will be funded through taxes on pet/livestock purchases and animal feed. "It's a win for everyone. No one will be harmed. No one is getting any extreme amount of fees. It should work", states Representative Phipps.

Pump the Breaks on Elderly Drivers

Olympia – Yesterday, Senators Maya Krankota and Danielle Scanes introduced Senate Bill 5555, which addresses the issue of elderly drivers. “The bill is a good one because it will decrease the accident and



fatality rate for elderly drivers,” said Sen. Krankota. Elderly drivers will take up twenty-five percent of the total people driving by 2030. In addition, over 6,017 elderly people were killed in road accidents, because elderly drivers are more at risk of dying because of their frailty. Joseph Coughlin states, "Birthdays don't kill. Health conditions do."

Bottle Bill Amended

Olympia – Yesterday, Senators Jonah Perez, Benjamin Van Haitisma, and Ryan Lafollette introduced Senate Bill SB 7000, which addresses the issue of polluting the environment through littering bottles. “The bill is a good one because it will reduce the amount of bottles littered throughout the state, making Washington more environmentally friendly,” said Sen. Van Haitisma. The bill will add a deposit system of making bottled beverages 10 cents extra. To get the 10 cents back the consumer has to recycle the bottles they bought. This will encourage people to become friendlier to the environment by simply earning back their money. States such as Michigan and Oregon have recycling rates jump as high as 80% when such laws were when such laws were installed.



Sleepless in Washington

Olympia – Yesterday, Senators Destiny Bitting and Elijah Hemingway introduced Senate Bill 5678, which addresses the issue of teen sleep deprivation. “The bill is a good one because it will help teens succeed and not be as sleep deprived,” said Sen. Bitting. The NSF found that incredibly 60% of teenagers under the age of 18 had complained of being tired during the day. Sleep deprivation is dangerous to teenagers, because it affects their attention, creativity, and their mood. This bill will go a long way in helping solve this dangerous problem.



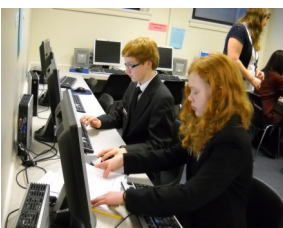
Guest speakers visit Page School



Rep. Larry Halder (R) from the 8th district and Kevin Pierce, Deputy Director of LSS joined the pages during classes on Wednesday. All guests shared insightful information about their jobs. Pages were able to ask questions and sharing their own views in response to the speakers’ comments.

DNA or No Way!

Olympia – House Bill 2067 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Joel Brennan and Kyrsten Frost. “This bill addresses the issue of the death penalty and will prevent imposing of the death penalty on innocent citizens,” said Rep. Brennan. This bill will require DNA directly linking the defendant to the case. This is in order to reduce the amount of suspects placed on death row for crimes which they possibly did not commit. Should this bill be passed, it will



reduce the amount of citizens placed on death row for crimes they are innocent of and require a greater degree of attention to be put toward determining the innocence of the defendant.

Senators Raise Their Glasses to New Regulations

Olympia – Yesterday, Senators Brooke Brandt and Brady Berg introduced Senate Bill 5777, which addresses the issue of drunk driving. “The bill is a good one because it keeps drunk drivers off of the road,” Sen. Brady Berg says. In 2010, there were reported 19,783 three-time DUI offenders in the State of Washington. This bill requires DUI offenders to acquire an ignition interlock device (IID) for a longer period of time. For the first DUI offense, an IID will be required for at least two years. For a second offense, alcoholic counseling for six months and five years of an IID will be required. For third time offenders, alcoholic counseling for a year and a required IID for 10+ years are required. If the offender is below the poverty line, their installation is paid for by fines paid by previous DUIs.



Page program over 120 years old

The Legislative page program has been in existence since 1891. This photo is of pages who served in past years. The first female page served in 1937. In the past, pages were required to do ironing and cleaning for members. Page duties today are much more professional and include delivering campus correspondence, helping with mailings in legislative offices, and handing out documents on the floor of the Senate and House.

